



## Headteacher's Message

January seems to have flown by, and I am incredibly proud of our children. They have returned to school with fantastic attitudes, great enthusiasm for learning and a real sense of community.

February looks set to be another busy and exciting month. We are looking forward to welcoming Jess Clarke, hosting our cross-country event on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and holding our open morning, giving families the chance to see our wonderful school in action. There is certainly lots to look forward to!

This week has also been a busy one for fixtures. We had excellent ISA cross-country results, with Alex G and Leyton going forward to represent the North, and our Year 3/4 boys' team finishing an impressive 7<sup>th</sup> overall.

Beyond half term, preparations will begin for World Book Day and the Ilkley Carnival – always highlights of the school year that bring creativity, fun and togetherness.

A big thank you as well to our fantastic parent volunteers, who are meeting next week to plan more exciting events for our children. Their time and energy make such a positive difference.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. **Hadley**

## Headteacher's Commendations

### Week commencing: 19.01.26

**Reception: Freddie N**, for having such a positive attitude to his learning and the care he takes when completing an activity.

**F1: Felix T**, for his fantastic contributions he brings to class each day. You are enthusiastic and everyone benefits from his input. During our writing sessions, Felix has listened carefully and is consistently using his capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. His spelling is good remembering lots of different rules we have worked on.

**F2: Langa N**, for really engaging in all our lessons across the curriculum. She always gives her best effort and is a kind and thoughtful friend to others. Well done, Langa.

**F3/4: Alex G**, for his incredible work ethic in Mathematics, his developing concentration on tasks and independence within the classroom and school. Well done, Alex!

**F5:** Hadley gave a special mention to all the class for being so adaptable joining other classes and being taught by other teachers.

**F6: Nell M**, for always giving her best and being positive and kind. Well done, Nell, your joyful energy lifts everyone around you!

### Week commencing: 26.01.26

**F1: Thomas T**, for his outstanding efforts in his reading. He tries so hard and as a result we are seeing fantastic improvements. It's a true delight to share a book with him.

**F2: Olivia C**, for her perseverance in all aspects of her learning. For showing consideration of others and challenging herself to implement the feedback given into her work with super results. Well done, Olivia!

**F3/4: George W**, for working so hard in all his lessons, showing care and dedication to his work, focusing on his presentation and independence in lessons.

**F5: Hugo H**, for making a really positive and constructive start to the new calendar year.

**F6: Joel T**, for using the 6C's to help him make excellent progress, across all areas of school life. Well done, Joel!

Our Reception class explored how to create wash backgrounds using runny paint  
as the first step in their Arctic Owls paintings



*Getting Creative*



## World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

We are excited to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. We have a wonderful day planned to help inspire a love of reading across the school.

This year, we will be running a Book Exchange for all children. We kindly ask each child to bring in a book they have already enjoyed and are happy to pass on so that we can establish Book Exchanges across the Key Stages. This will form part of helping to share stories, spark new interests and promote sustainable reading habits.

Children are also invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book. We love seeing the creativity and imagination that go into these costumes each year! This year the most creative costumes will be awarded a prize by Mrs Picken.

To take part, we ask for a £2 donation. All funds raised will go directly towards developing our school library, helping us to expand our collection and create an even more vibrant heart to our school.

Thank you for your support in making World Book Day a memorable and meaningful celebration for our school community.

A polite reminder that there will be no swimming on this day. All children should arrive at school as normal.



Don't forget to **arrange sponsors for the children ahead of Jess Clarke's visit** and send in their sponsor money by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February. This will ensure Jess can bring the correct awards for each child. [Ilkley Gazette press article](#)

**Cake and bake donations to be sold at the Cross Country on 7th February would be greatly appreciated.**



Zac completed his first Parkrun at Robert's Park, (alongside his mum) on Saturday, finishing the course in around 28 minutes. He and Max then braved the pouring rain on Sunday to take part in Junior Parkrun. Zac finished in an impressive 9:35, placing 8th out of 83 runners. It was also the furthest Max has ever run (2k), and despite the awful weather he kept going, coming 60th in 14:29. It's wonderful to be able to share these experiences together. We're all so proud of both of them for their determination. Well done Zac and Max!



## Help Us Grow Our Library!

We're excited to share that our school library area is expanding with a brand-new set of shelves and we'd love your help to fill them! If you have any unwanted children's books at home that are in good condition, we would be so grateful if you could donate them to the school. Please bring any donations to Main Reception at your convenience.

**Your donations will help us make our library an even more inspiring and exciting place to read and learn. Thank you for supporting our growing community of young readers!**

## Celebrating George's Tennis Success

We are delighted to share some fantastic news about **George M** and his recent achievements in tennis.

George has been **selected to represent Yorkshire** in the upcoming **County Cup** this February. Only four players are chosen for the team, making this a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to his dedication and commitment to training with the Yorkshire squad.

In addition, George has been **invited by the LTA** to attend the **North of England Performance Camp** next month. This prestigious opportunity will see him train with the LTA's National Coaching Team and further develop his performance skills. George's family are incredibly proud of his attitude, hard work, and exemplary work ethic, and we are too! **Please join us in congratulating George on these outstanding achievements.**



Ilkley Carnival 2026, which takes place on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May** (bank holiday), themed “*Children’s Books*”, is in full swing, and we are excited to confirm that our pupils have been invited to take part in both the

**Event Day Parade and also this year’s Creative Art Competition, which is to design the front cover image for the official carnival programme!**

This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to showcase their creativity as part of this celebrated, local family event, by either designing and creating their costume for the parade or by entering the Creative Art competition.

#### **How to Enter:**

Please complete this short [Microsoft form](#) and we will then provide Ilkley Carnival with final numbers for the parade and the competition. An appropriate number of Creative Art Competition entry forms will be delivered to school, and we will send these home with your children as soon as we receive them from the carnival organisers.

The deadline for entries to the Creative Art Competition is Friday 6th March 2026 so this could be a nice half term project for your child/ren.

**We can’t wait to see the wonderful ideas and illustrations our talented pupils create**



## **YOUNG VOICES UPDATE 2026**

**Our Young Voices tickets and T-shirts have now arrived, exciting times ahead!** With the concert fast approaching, please encourage the children to keep practising their songs and dances at home. They can use the Young Voices website, their usual streaming service, or YouTube. A reminder that they will not have any lyrics with them on the day, so regular practice will really help them feel confident and ready for the big event!



### **Year 3 Writers!**

On Friday 23rd January 2026, Bella, Grayson, and Max from Form 3 received Head Teacher Stickers from Mr Nicholson, for their awesome and creative pieces of descriptive writing.

They were asked to read their work to Mr Nicholson, who was blown away with their writing!

*Mrs Mellin*





**REFER A  
FAMILY TO  
GHYLL ROYD  
SCHOOL!**

**RECEIVE  
£250!**

**Exciting News! Recommend a Family and Receive £250!**

**We're delighted to announce the launch of our Recommend a Family Scheme!**

Do you know a family who would love to join our wonderful school community? If you recommend them and their child joins our school, you'll receive £250 as a thank you once the new pupil has completed one full term with us.

It's our way of saying thank you for helping our school grow with families who share our values and enthusiasm for learning.

**How it works:**

Tell your friends and family about our school and all the great things happening here.

If they decide to enrol their child, make sure they mention your name when applying.

Once their child has attended for a full term, you'll receive your £250 reward!

We truly value the support of our school community and look forward to welcoming more wonderful families to our school.

For more information or to make a recommendation, please contact the school office.

## HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN

Book your place  
through Class for Kids

Email: [information@ghyllroydschool.co.uk](mailto:information@ghyllroydschool.co.uk)



**BOOK  
NOW!**

### Our first Holiday Sports Camp of 2026 is now LIVE for bookings! 🏆

**Join us this February Half Term for a week packed with energy, fun, and loads of activities your children will love! (Monday 16th to Friday 20th February)**

**Here's what we've got lined up:**

- 🏀 **Multi-sports Monday** – Try as many sports as we can fit into one day!
- 🎮 **Choose-It Tuesday** – YOU take charge... pick the activities and games all day long!
- 🤖 **Wild West Wednesday** – Nerf gun target practice and Battle Royale!
- 🏆 **Themed Thursday** – Dress as your favourite sportsperson or wear your team colours!
- 🎉 **Fun Friday** – Challenges, bouncy castle, trophies... many say it's their favourite day of camp!
- 🌟 **Every day includes Special Mention Certificates and Star of the Day Medals.**
- 🏆 **And on Friday...** one superstar will take home the Star of the Week Trophy. Could it be you?

📅 **Book now – spaces are limited!**

We can't wait to see you there! 💛💙

**FEBRUARY 2026**

**Mon 2:** Reception swimming

**Fri 6:** House Assembly & 'Just For You' Post-Box opens; Gideons visit

**Sat 7:** Wharfedale League Cross Country: Ghyll Royd

**Mon 9:** Reception swimming

**Tues 10:** Chinese New Year – Year of the Fire Horse

**Weds 11:** Form 1 lunch with parents @12:00; Activkidsuk Athlete Visit

**Thurs 12:** Swimming for Forms 1–6

**Fri 13:** Celebration Assembly @ 8.50am; Form 5, 6 Young Voices Manchester; 'Just for You' mail delivery

**Mon 16-Fri 20: GHYLL ROYD SPORTS CAMP**

**HALF TERM**

**Mon 23 Feb:** Reception swimming

**Tues 24:** F3& 4 games afternoon start (Football)

**Thurs 26:** Swimming for Forms 1–6

**Fri 27:** Celebration Assembly @ 8.50am; Form 5, 6 games afternoon start (Netball)

**Sat 28:** Wharfedale League Cross Country: Ashlands

**MARCH**

**Mon 2 March:** Reception swimming

**Weds 4:** Form 2 lunch with parents – 12pm

**Thurs 5:** no swimming – World Book Day

**Fri 6:** Celebration Assembly @ 8.50

**Mon 9:** Reception swimming

**Thurs 12:** Swimming Gala F3-6; Mother's Day Tea Party (Rec & KS1 @1.45pm)

**Fri 13:** Celebration Assembly @ 8.50am

**Sat 14:** Wharfedale League Nell Bank relays

Support Ghyll Royd every time you shop online, at no extra cost to you. Simply visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select Ghyll Royd School as your chosen cause. Thousands of retailers (including Amazon, John Lewis, and Marks & Spencer) will donate a percentage of your purchase directly to our school.

It's a simple, effective way to make a difference, all while

